

PROBABLY THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE!



INVINCIBLE

31

\$2.99
\$3.50 CAN



KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • RATHBURN • CRABTREE

image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

ROBERT KIRKMAN

WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY

PENCILER

CLIFF RATHBURN

INKER

BILL CRABTREE

COLORIST

RUS WOOTON

LETTERER

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER

IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Erik Larsen - Publisher

Todd McFarlane - President

Marc Silvestri - CEO

Jim Valentino - Vice-President

Eric Stephenson - Executive Director

Jim Demonakos - PR & Marketing Coordinator

Mia MacHatton - Accounts Manager

Laurenn McCubbin - Art Director

Allen Hui - Production Artist

Joe Keatinge - Traffic Manager

Jonathan Chan - Production Assistant

Drew Gill - Production Assistant

Traci Hui - Administrative Assistant

www.imagecomics.com

INVINCIBLE #31. April 2006. Published by Image Comics, Inc., Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2006 Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker. All rights reserved. INVINCIBLE™ (including all prominent characters featured in this issue), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker, unless otherwise noted. CAPES™ (including all prominent characters featured in this issue), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. PRINTED IN CANADA.



I SEE
YOU TWO
ARE GETTING
ALONG.

LET ME JUST RECAP A LITTLE HERE, SON. YOU GO OUT INTO SPACE ON A BIG ADVENTURE-- SEE YOUR FATHER, WHICH I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GET INTO, BRING BACK YOUR STEP BROTHER, ASK ME TO RAISE HIM-- AND THEN YOU SKIP OUT FOR THE REST OF THE DAY?



YEAH, I GUESS SO. SORRY ABOUT THAT. TALKING TO AMBER TOOK A LITTLE MORE TIME THAN I EXPECTED.



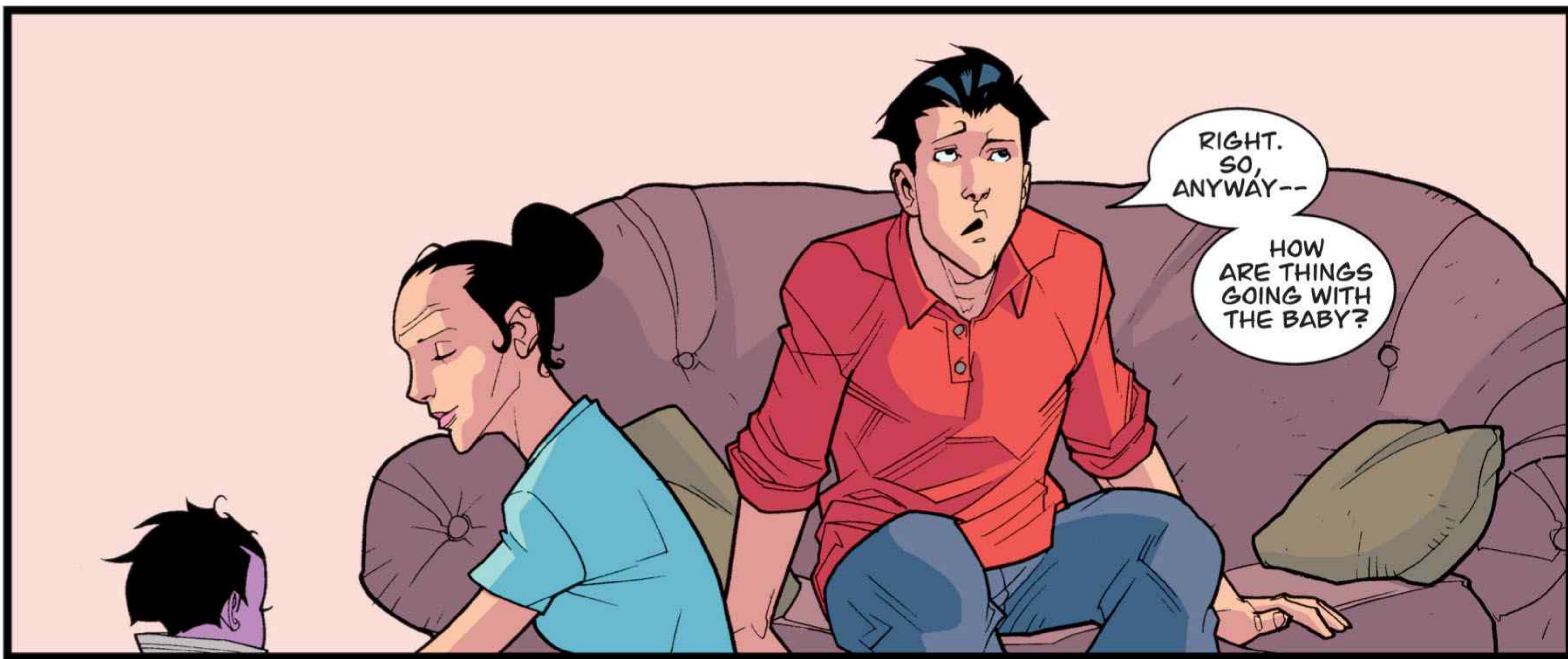
TALKING?

MOM-- PLEASE.

DON'T DO THAT.



WELL, IF YOU EXPECT ME TO THINK YOU'VE BEEN **JUST TALKING** FOR THREE HOURS, YOU'RE FOOLING YOURSELF.



RIGHT. SO, ANYWAY--

HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH THE BABY?

YOU'RE A CRAFTY ONE, MARK GRAYSON.

YOU LEAVE ME HERE WITH A BABY THAT HAS NO ONE TO RAISE IT FOR THREE HOURS AND YOU THINK I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO PART WITH IT?



SO YOU'RE--?



LIKE YOU DIDN'T PLAN THIS.

HOW COULD I SAY NO? OF COURSE I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.



SPEAKING OF HIM. DOES HE HAVE A NAME?

ACTUALLY, NO. THE MANTIS PEOPLE AGED SO FAST THEY CHOSE THEIR OWN NAME ONCE THEY WERE OLD ENOUGH. I THINK THAT WAS ABOUT A WEEK INTO THEIR LIFE, THOUGH, SO HE SHOULD ALREADY HAVE PICKED ONE.

I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE HONORING THAT TRADITION. CECIL SAID I'D NEED TO FIND OUT HIS NAME SOON, ANYWAY.

YOU TALKED TO CECIL?

YEAH, HE 'PORTED OVER WHILE YOU WERE WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND.

HE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THE ADOPTION OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND SOMETHING ABOUT HOLOGRAPHIC SOMETHING OR OTHERS TO MASK HIS SKIN TONE.

IT ALL MADE A WHOLE LOT OF SENSE--AND I'D HAD A COUPLE HOURS TO GET ATTACHED TO THE LITTLE BUGGER.

YEAH--I GOT TO SPEND TIME WITH HIM ON THE PLANET A LITTLE BIT, BUT I WAS WITH HIM IN THE SHIP FOR SIX DAYS ON THE WAY HERE.

I'M GLAD HE COULD--

I NEED YOU, KID.

OH, AND SOMETHING ABOUT A PRIVATE TUTOR.

WE'VE GOTTEN TO BE BUDDIES, HAVEN'T WE?

BROTHER!

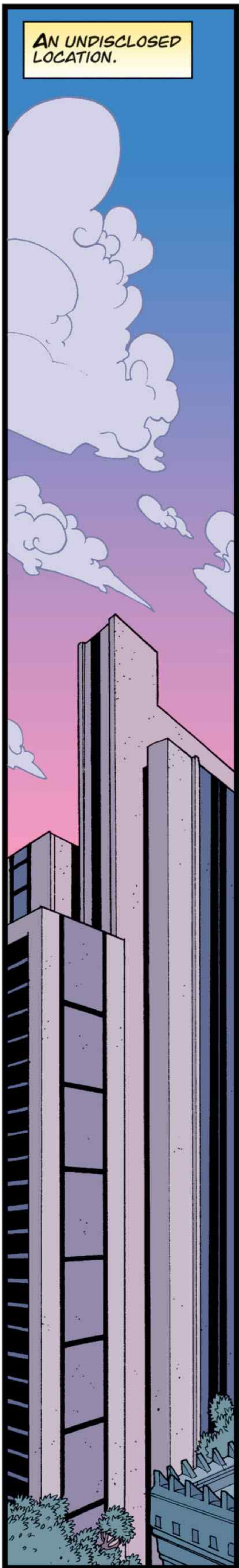
--SPEAK OF THE DEVIL. LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT TO RUN. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW?

YES, PLEASE--AND I ALMOST FORGOT TO MENTION: ART BROUGHT A NEW COSTUME BY FOR YOU. IT'S UPSTAIRS.

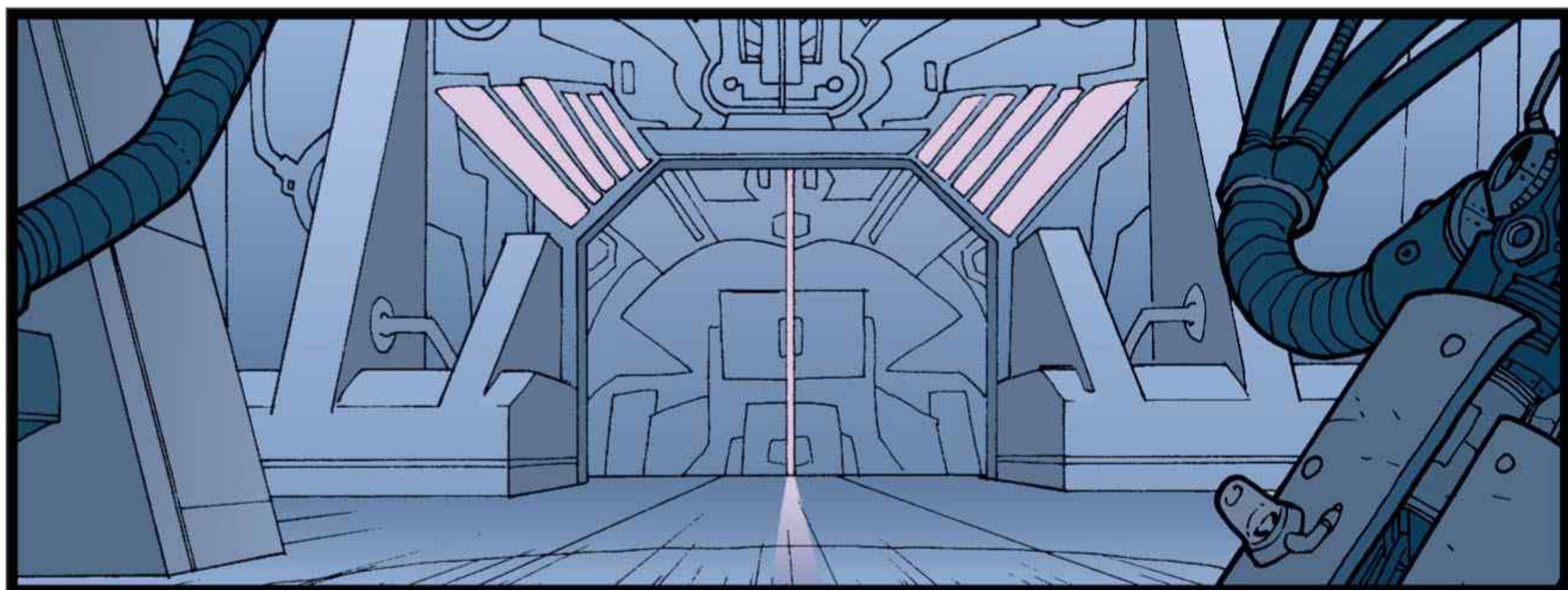
BE CAREFUL.

WILL DO.

YOU ARE A CUTE ONE, AREN'T YOU?

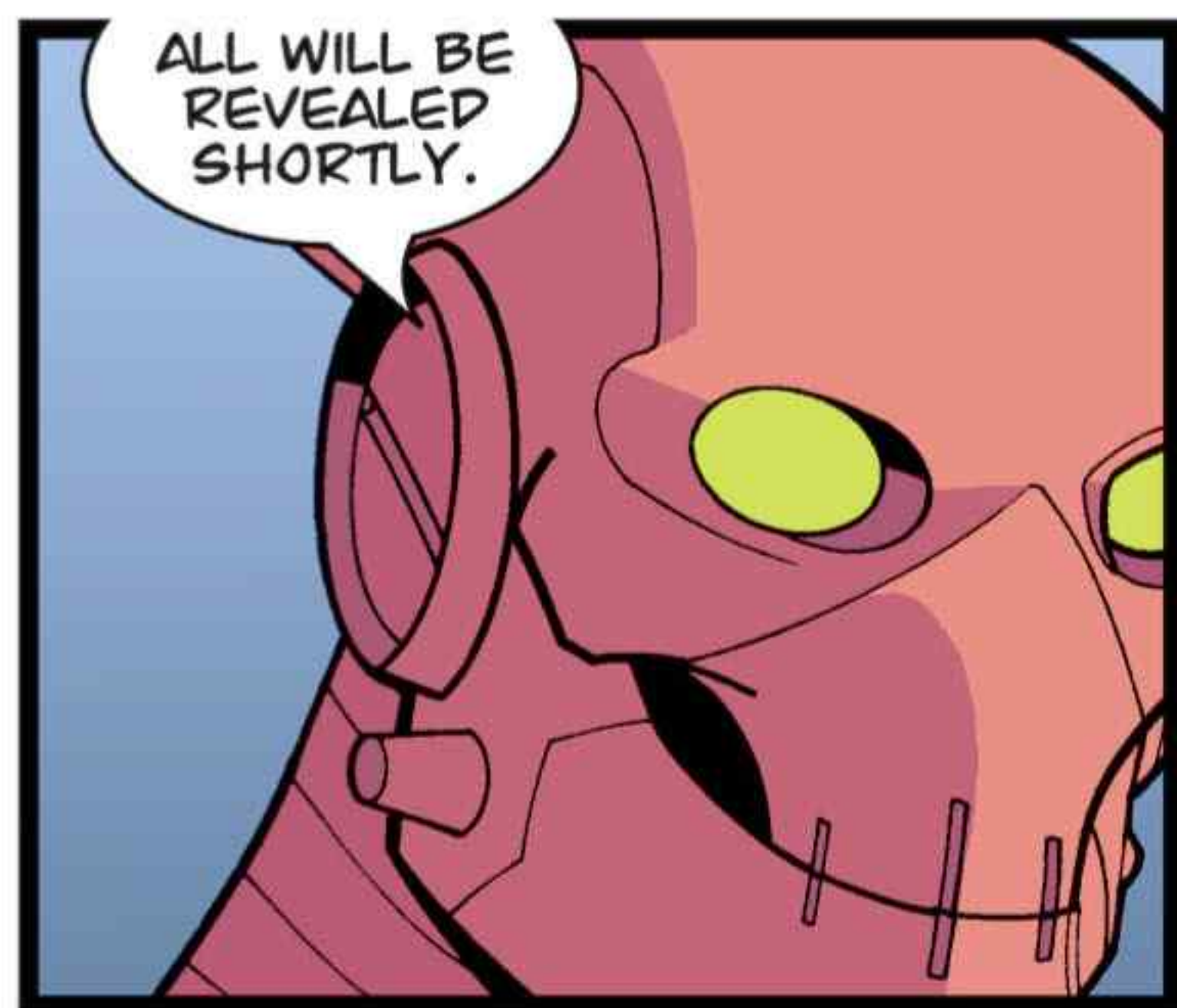


AN UNDISCLOSED
LOCATION.



THIS WAY,
PLEASE.

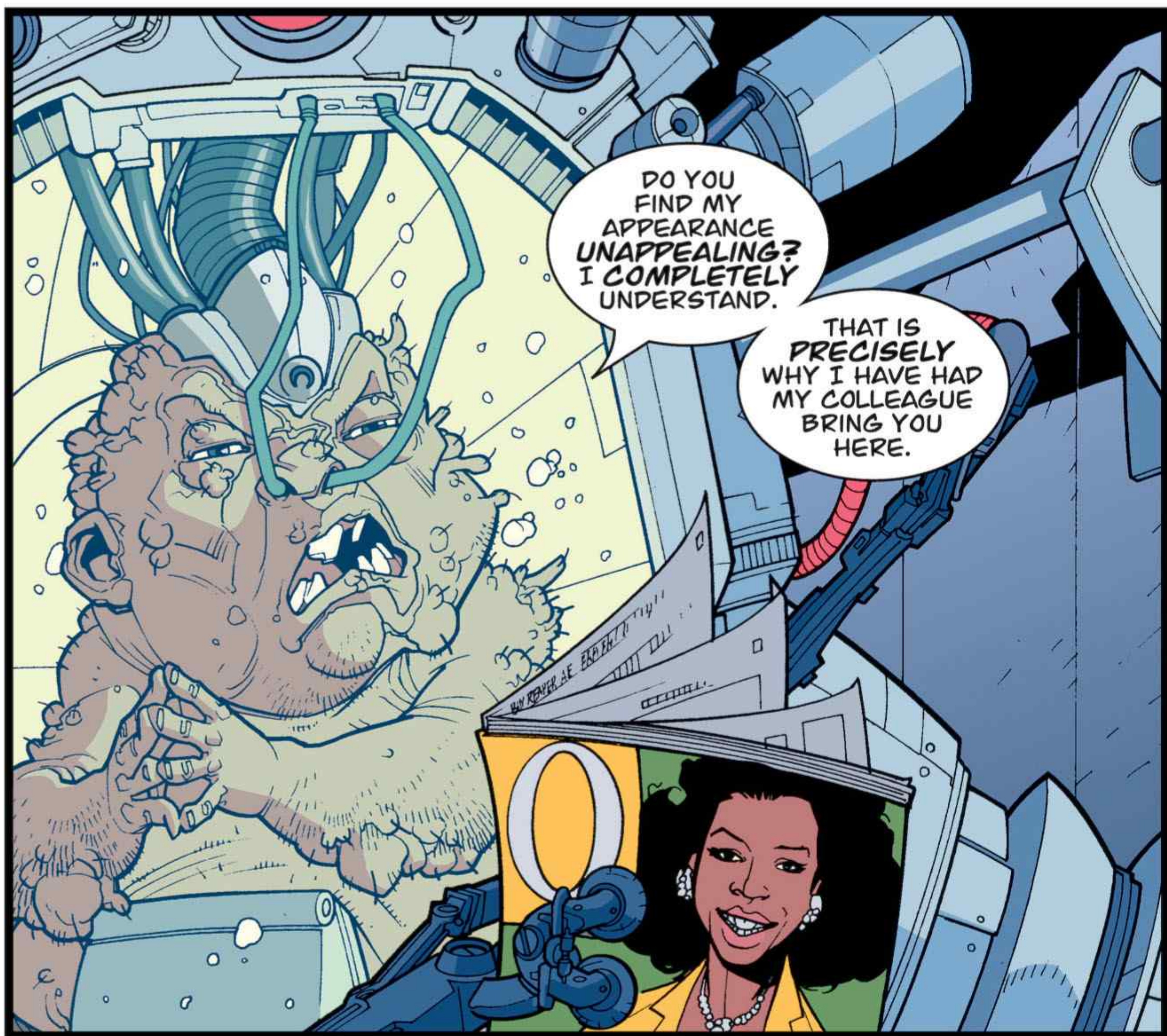
IMPRESSIVE--
WHAT IS THIS
PLACE?



ALL WILL BE
REVEALED
SHORTLY.

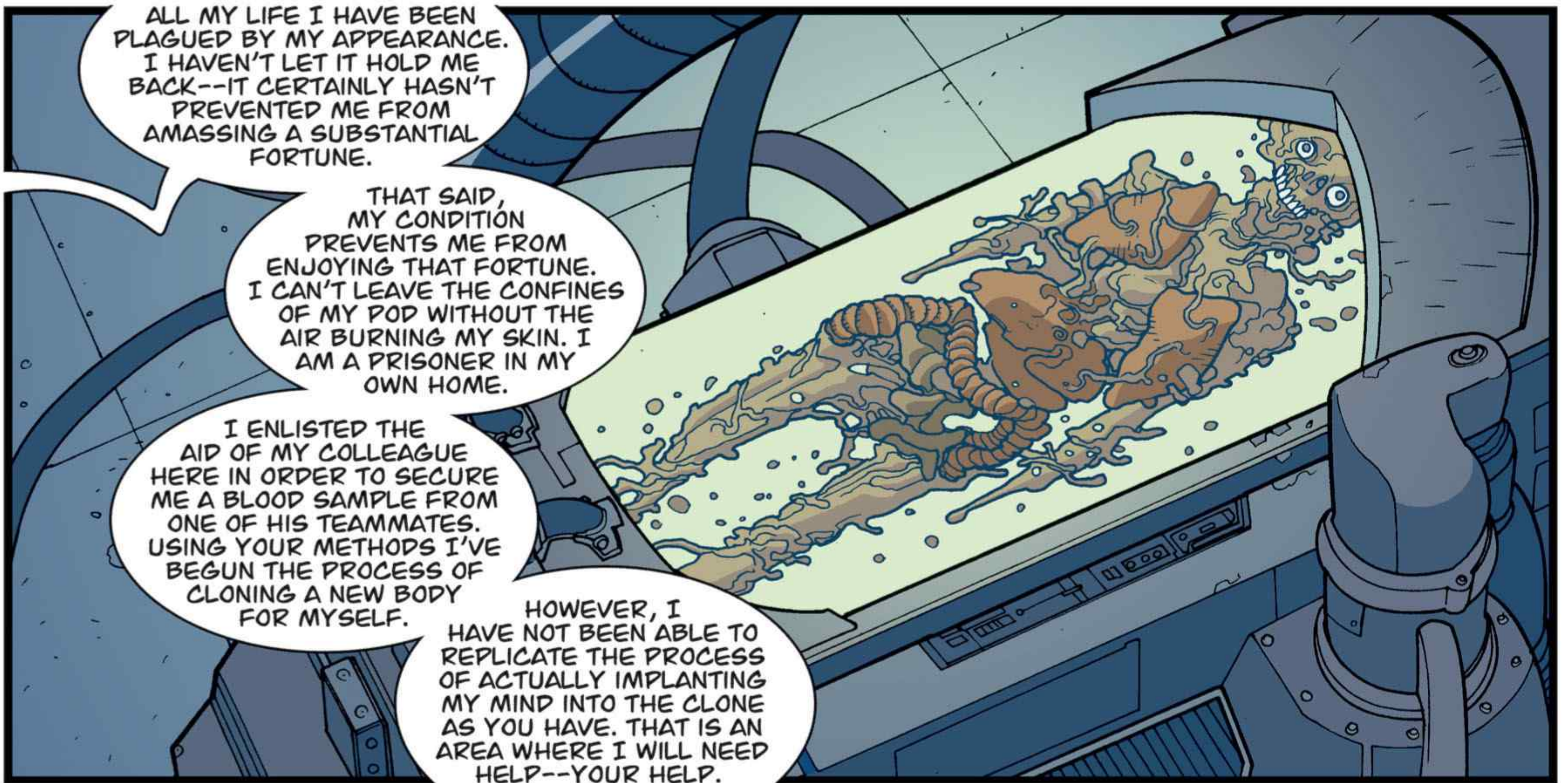
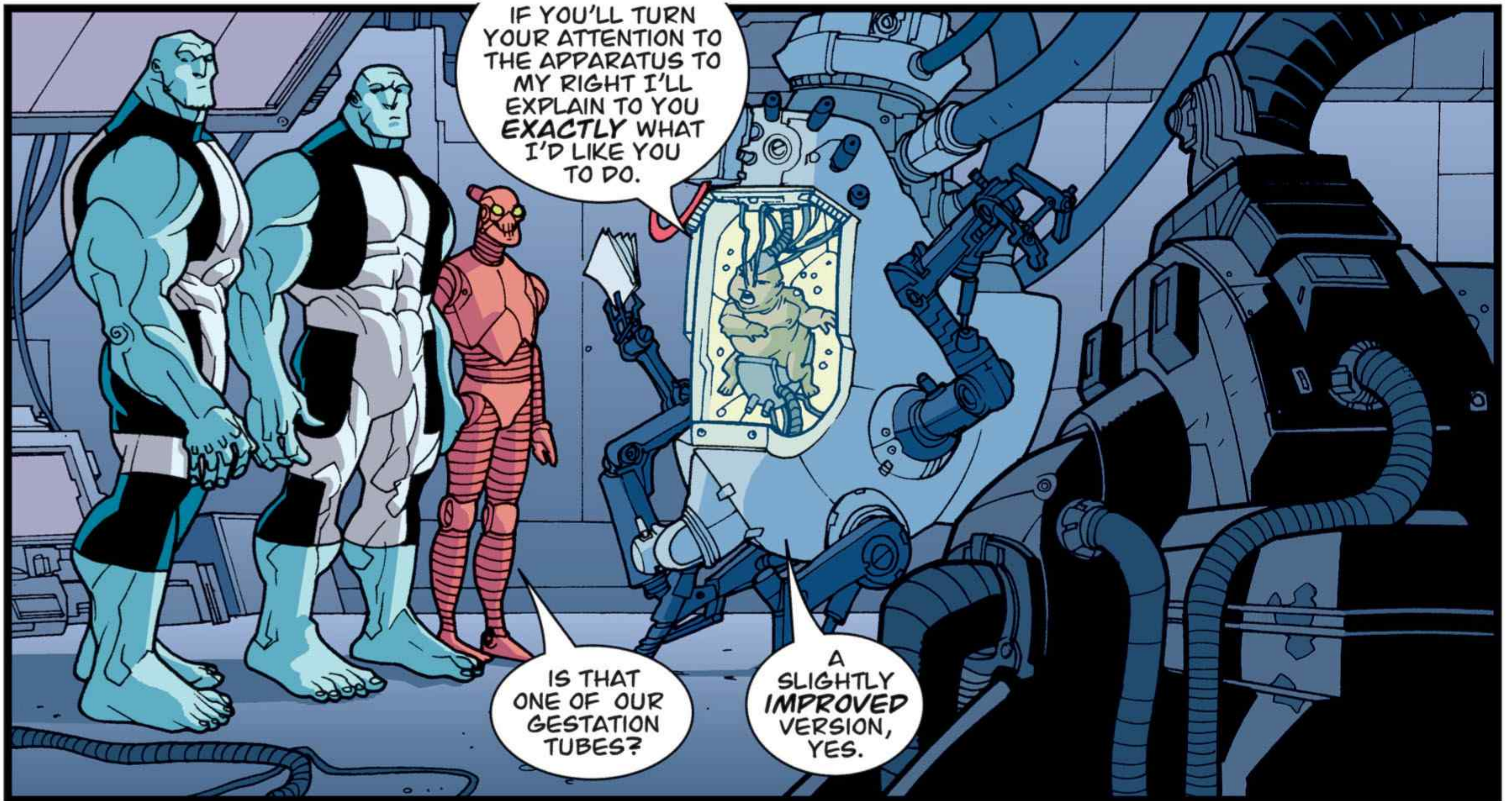


WHAT IS
THAT?!



DO YOU
FIND MY
APPEARANCE
UNAPPEALING?
I COMPLETELY
UNDERSTAND.

THAT IS
PRECISELY
WHY I HAVE HAD
MY COLLEAGUE
BRING YOU
HERE.







CAREFUL NOW--YA WOULDN'T WANNA HURT ANY UH THESE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS NOW WOULD YA?!



WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS **QUICK**, PEOPLE-- SOMEONE KNOCK HIM OUT BEFORE ANYONE GETS KILLED!

HELP US!

I CAN'T STOP!



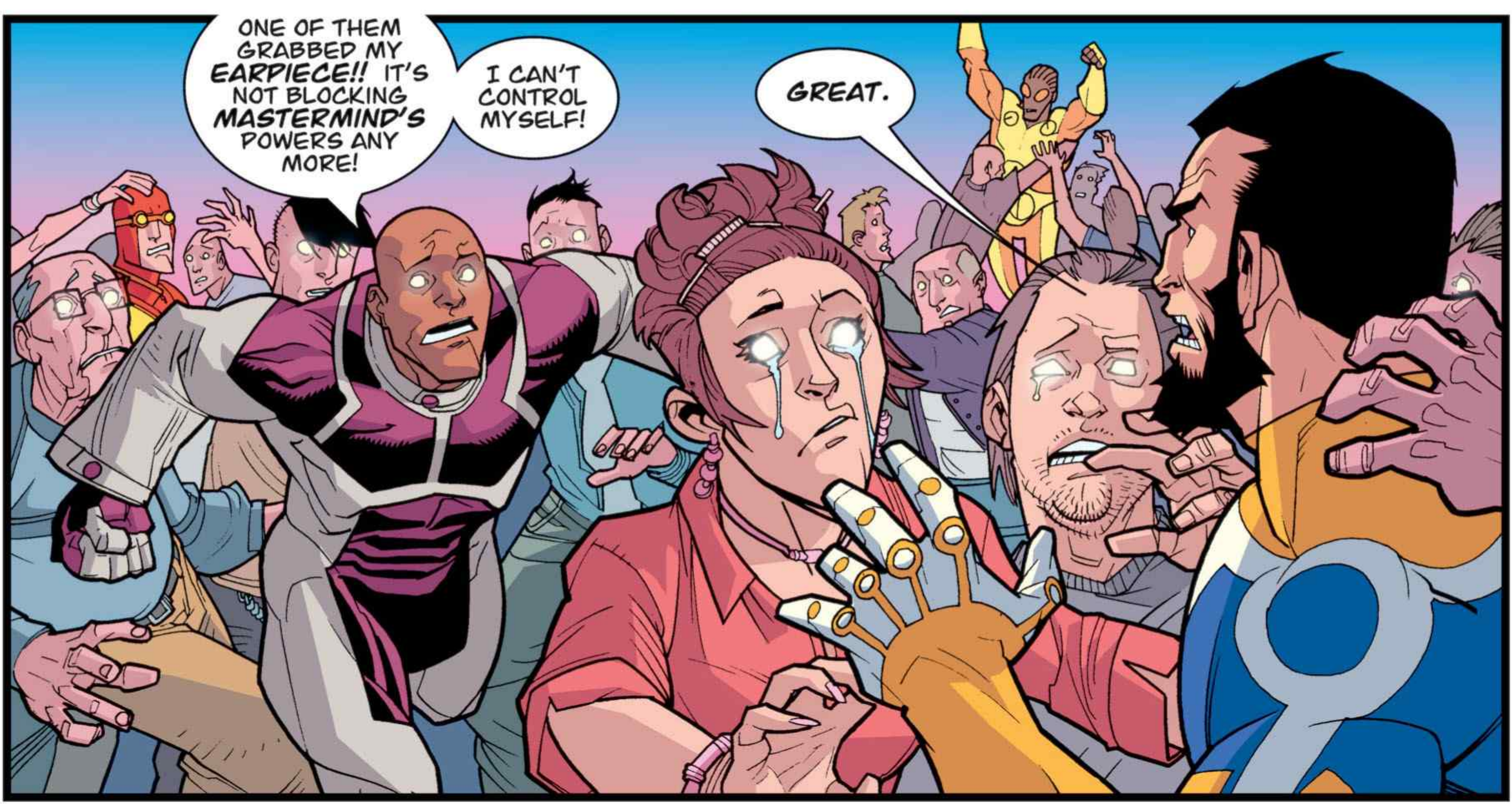
WE'RE TRYING, IMMORTAL!

OUT OF THE WAY-- FIGHT HIS CONTROL--WE'RE TRYING TO **SAVE** YOU!



WE CAN'T! I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF!

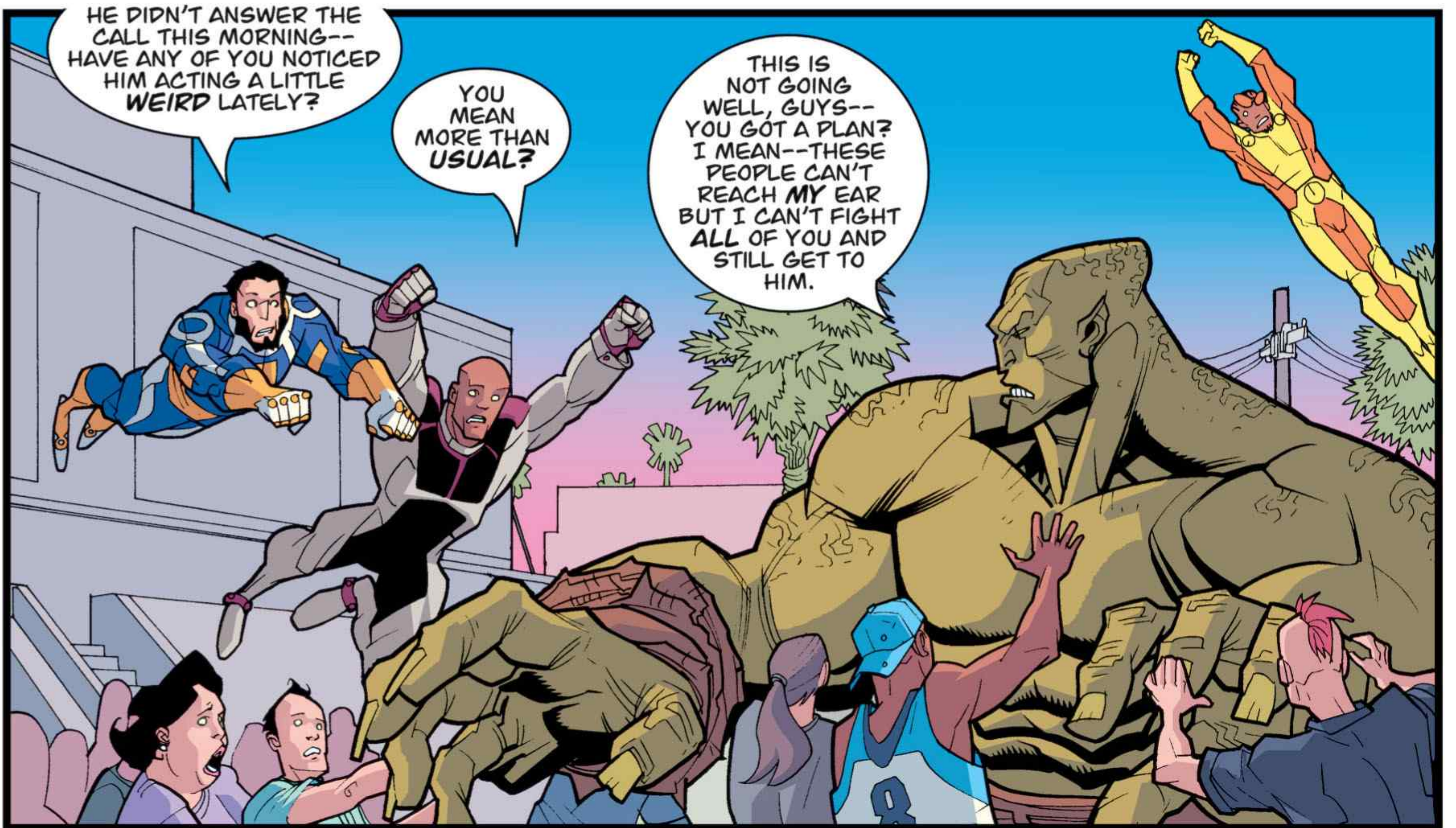
CRAP!



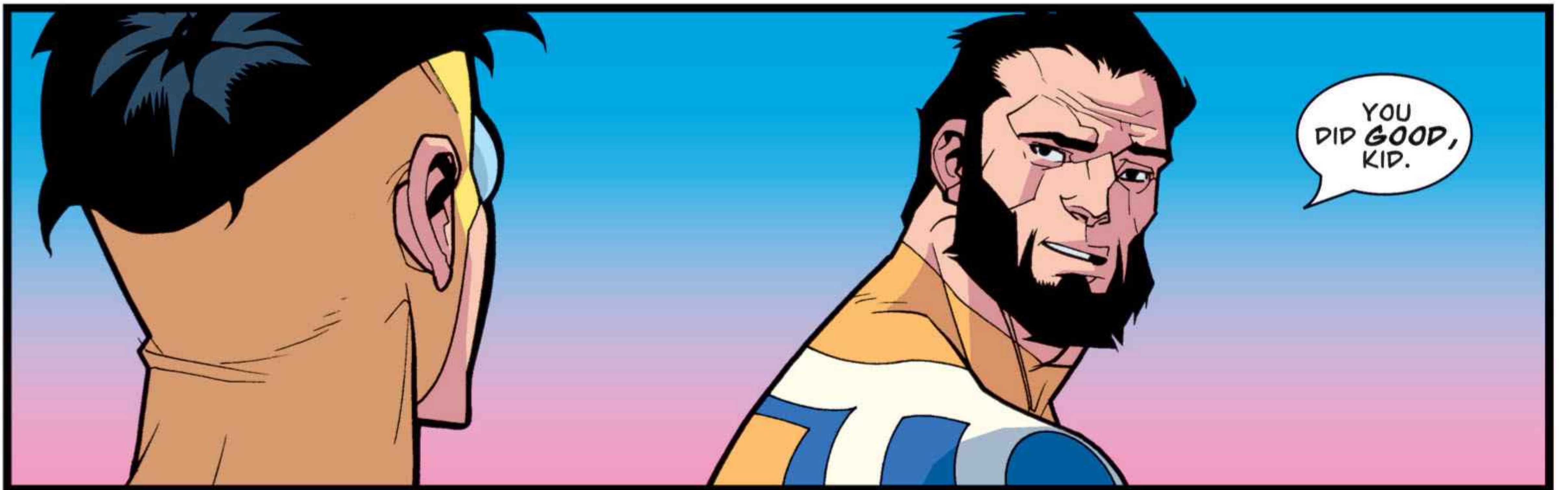
ONE OF THEM GRABBED MY **EARPiece!!** IT'S NOT BLOCKING **MASTERMIND'S** POWERS ANY MORE!

I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF!

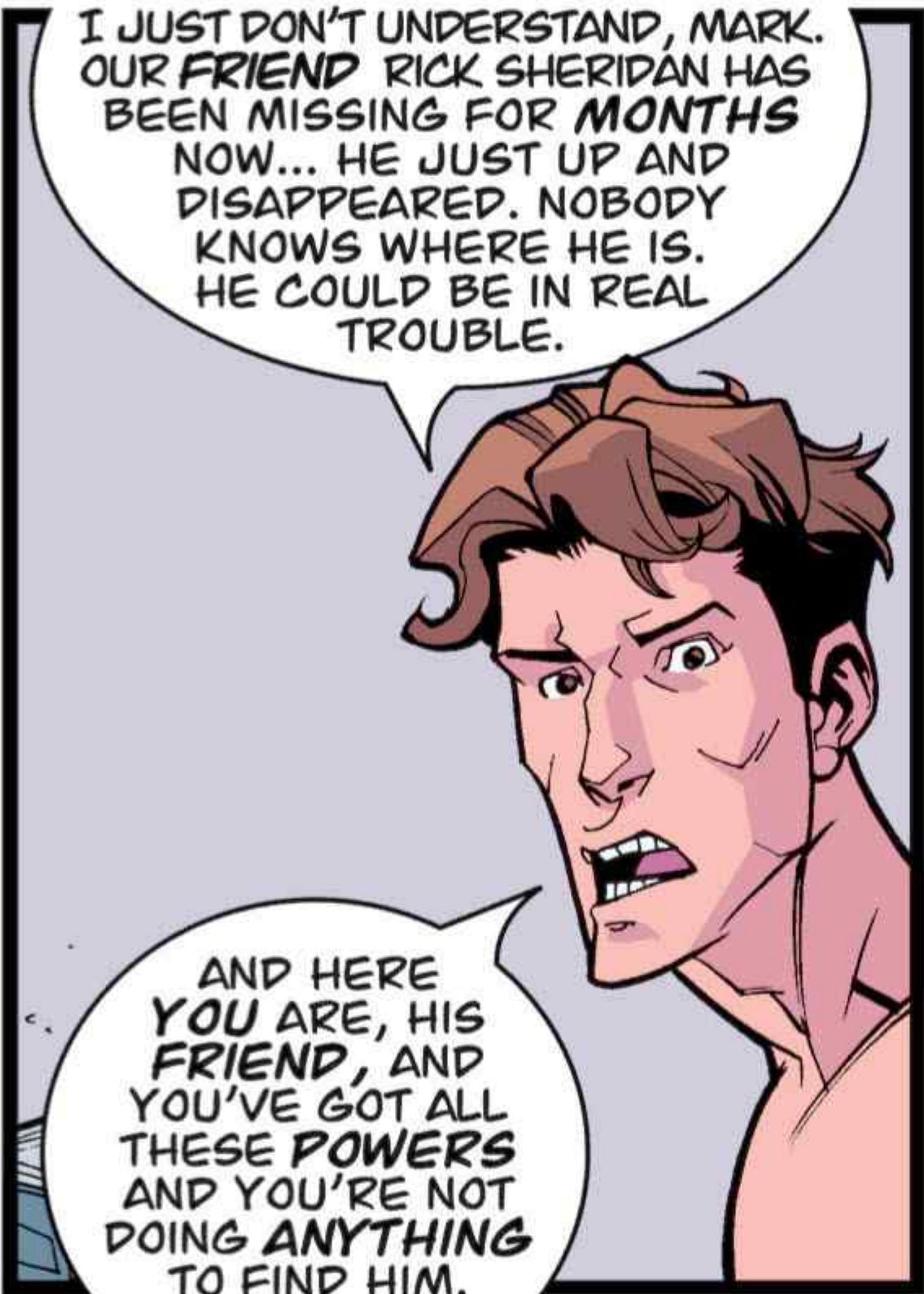
GREAT.













AMBER'S DORM.



HUH?

JEEZ.



GOOD MORNING. LISTEN, YOU REALLY SHOULD STOP LOCKING YOUR WINDOW. I'M GOING TO GET SPOTTED OUT THERE WAITING FOR YOU TO OPEN IT ONE DAY.



HMN.



DID I WAKE YOU UP? I'M SORRY. I THOUGHT YOU'D BE UP ALREADY. DO YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE SO YOU CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP?



NO, NO... **STAY**. PLEASE. I'VE GOT A BIG TEST IN AN HOUR. I WAS UP LATE STUDYING AND THERE'S STILL A LOT OF STUFF I NEED TO LOOK OVER.

I NEED TO BE UP RIGHT NOW.

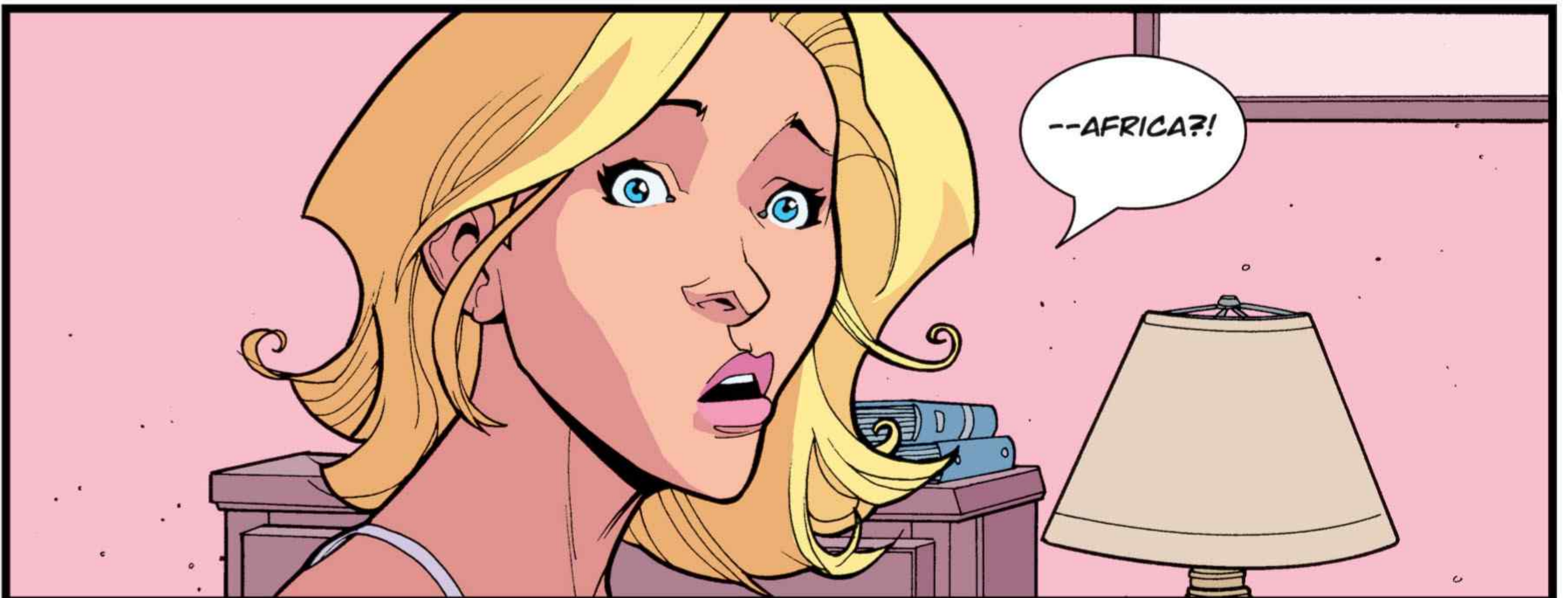


COOL. SO... YOU WANT TO **DITCH CLASS** WITH ME? WE COULD GO TO **AFRICA**.



WHAT DID I **JUST** SAY? I'VE GOT A **BIG TEST**... I CAN'T JUST **DITCH CLASS** WITH YOU.

THIS TEST COUNTS FOR LIKE **HALF** MY GRADE, IT'S **REALLY**--



--AFRICA?!



COME ON... YOU COULD MAKE UP THE TEST. YOU'D EVEN HAVE MORE TIME TO STUDY. YOU NEVER SKIP CLASS.



WE HAVEN'T REALLY GOTTEN TO SEE EACH OTHER AT ALL SINCE I GOT BACK.



HELLO?! DID YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT AFRICA?!

LET'S FOLLOW UP ON THAT FIRST.

OH, THAT. MY FRIEND EVE LIVES THERE NOW. YOU'VE MET EVE.

SHE INVITED US.



OH, EVE.



WHAT? YOU LIKE EVE, RIGHT?



YEAH, SHE'S COOL IT'S JUST THAT, I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE WENT OUT WITH WILLIAM TO GET TO YOU.

I ALWAYS KINDA THOUGHT SHE HAD A THING FOR YOU.



EVE? YOU THOUGHT EVE HAD A THING FOR ME?

THAT'S HILARIOUS! WE'RE JUST REALLY GOOD FRIENDS--THE SUPERHERO THING AND ALL. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE LIKED ME?



I DON'T KNOW, THE WAY SHE ACTS AROUND YOU SOMETIMES. BESIDES...

WHY ELSE WOULD ANYONE GO OUT WITH WILLIAM?



HM. MAYBE YOU DO HAVE A POINT.



YOU DON'T HAVE A THING FOR HER, DO YOU?



NO, OF COURSE NOT. I MEAN, SHE'S CUTE BUT I NEVER REALLY LOOKED AT HER THAT WAY. SHE WAS WITH REX WHEN WE FIRST MET.

I'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT. SO ARE WE GOING TO AFRICA OR NOT?



I CAN'T PASS THAT UP. YOU KNOW THAT.

BUT CAN IT WAIT UNTIL AFTER MY TEST?



YEAH, SURE... I SHOULD PROBABLY MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT MY CLASSES TODAY ANYWAY.

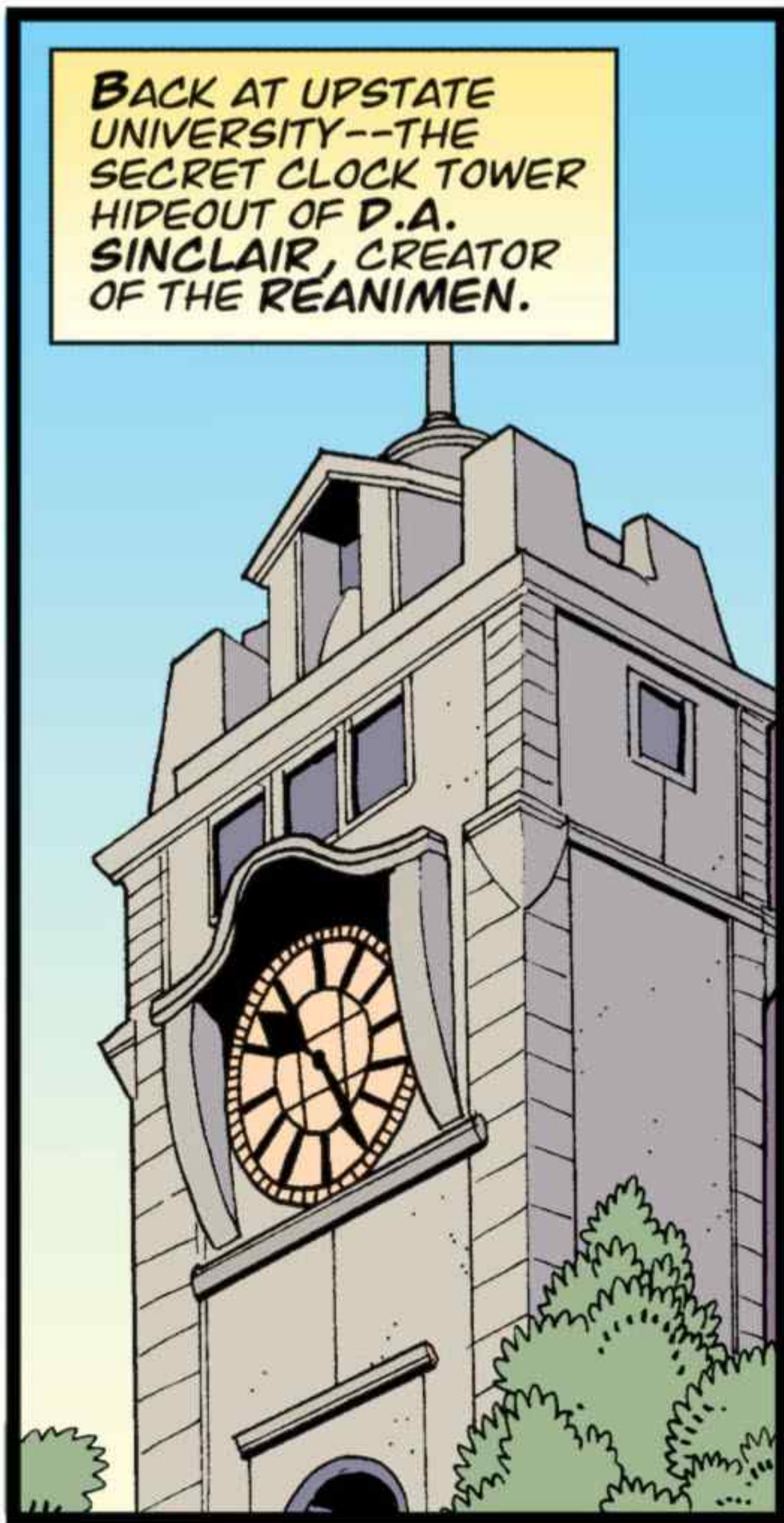
I'LL MEET YOU BACK HERE AT... HOW DOES THREE-THIRTY SOUND?



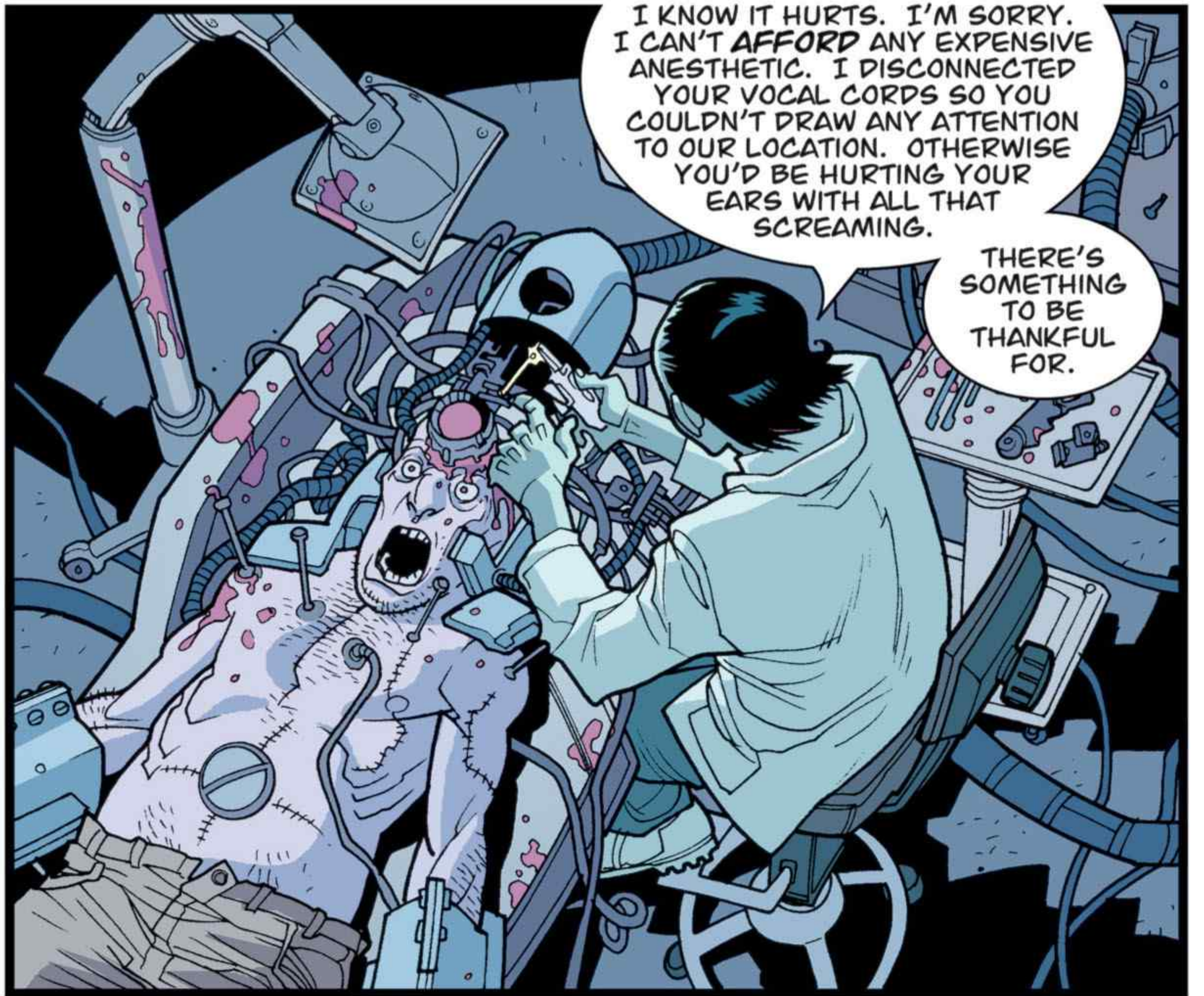
IT SOUNDS GREAT.

C'MERE.



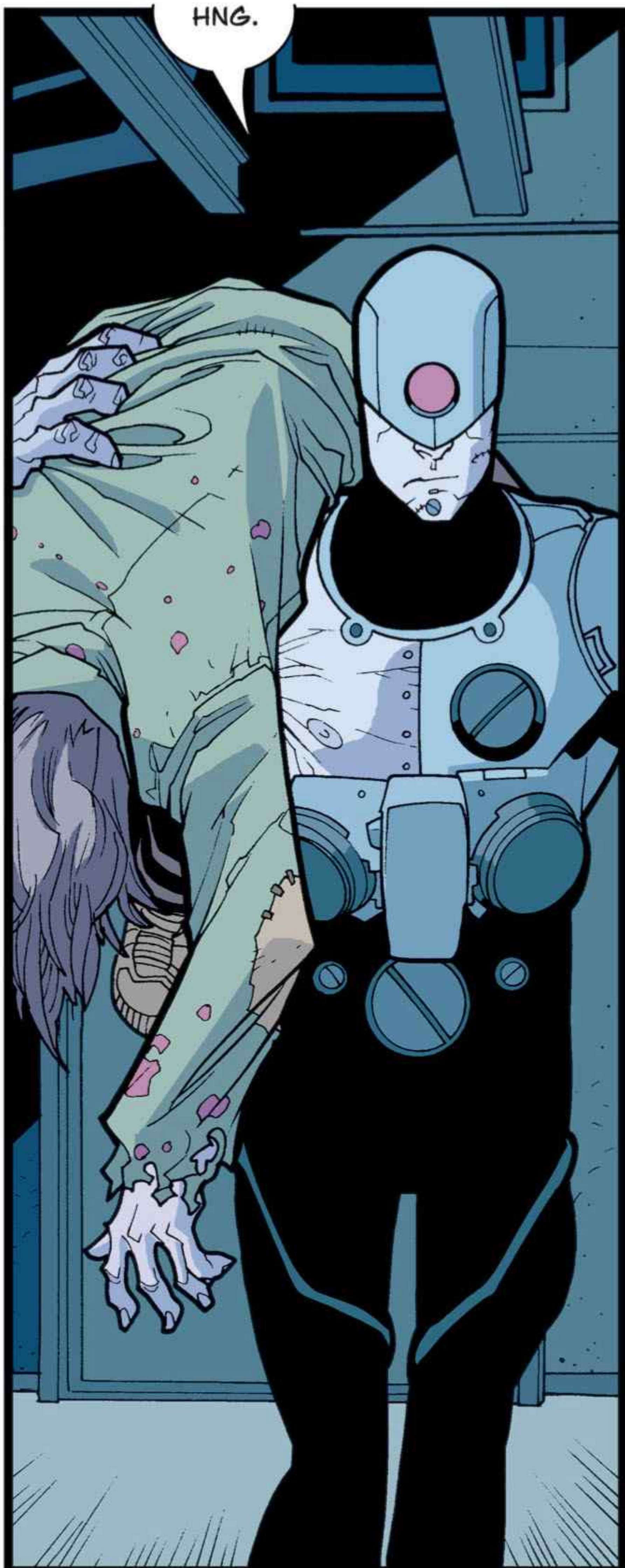


BACK AT UPSTATE UNIVERSITY--THE SECRET CLOCK TOWER HIDEOUT OF D.A. SINCLAIR, CREATOR OF THE REANIMEN.



I KNOW IT HURTS. I'M SORRY. I CAN'T AFFORD ANY EXPENSIVE ANESTHETIC. I DISCONNECTED YOUR VOCAL CORDS SO YOU COULDN'T DRAW ANY ATTENTION TO OUR LOCATION. OTHERWISE YOU'D BE HURTING YOUR EARS WITH ALL THAT SCREAMING.

THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

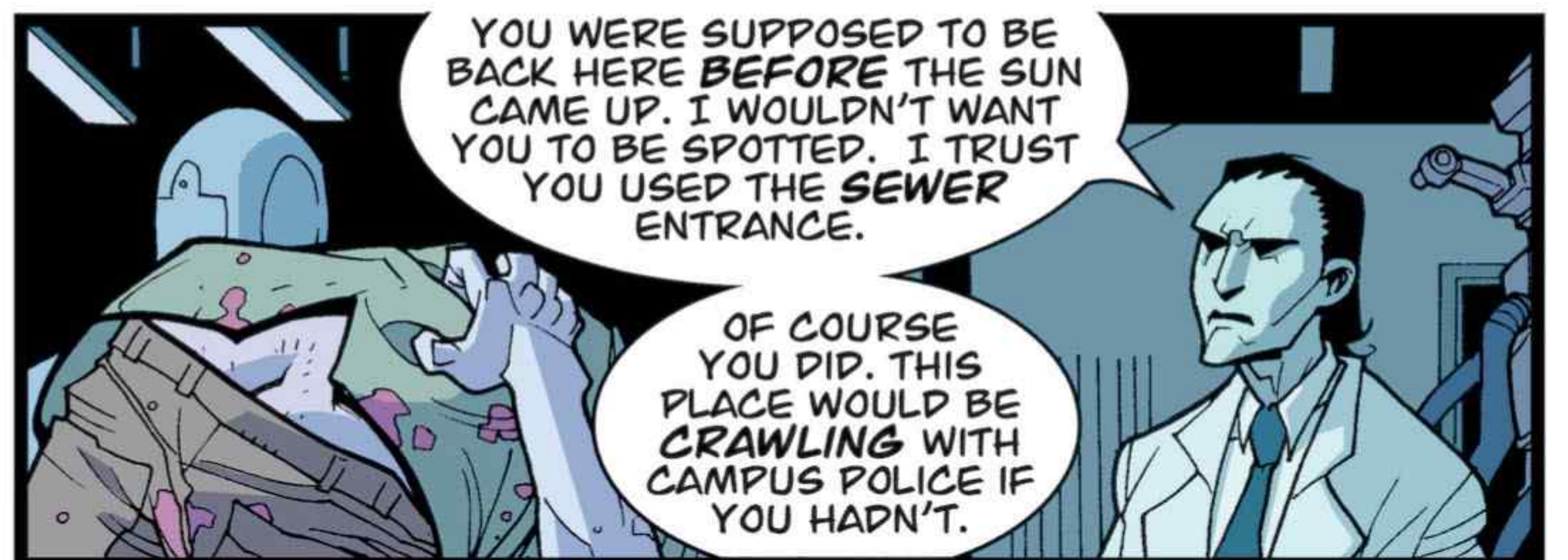


HNG.



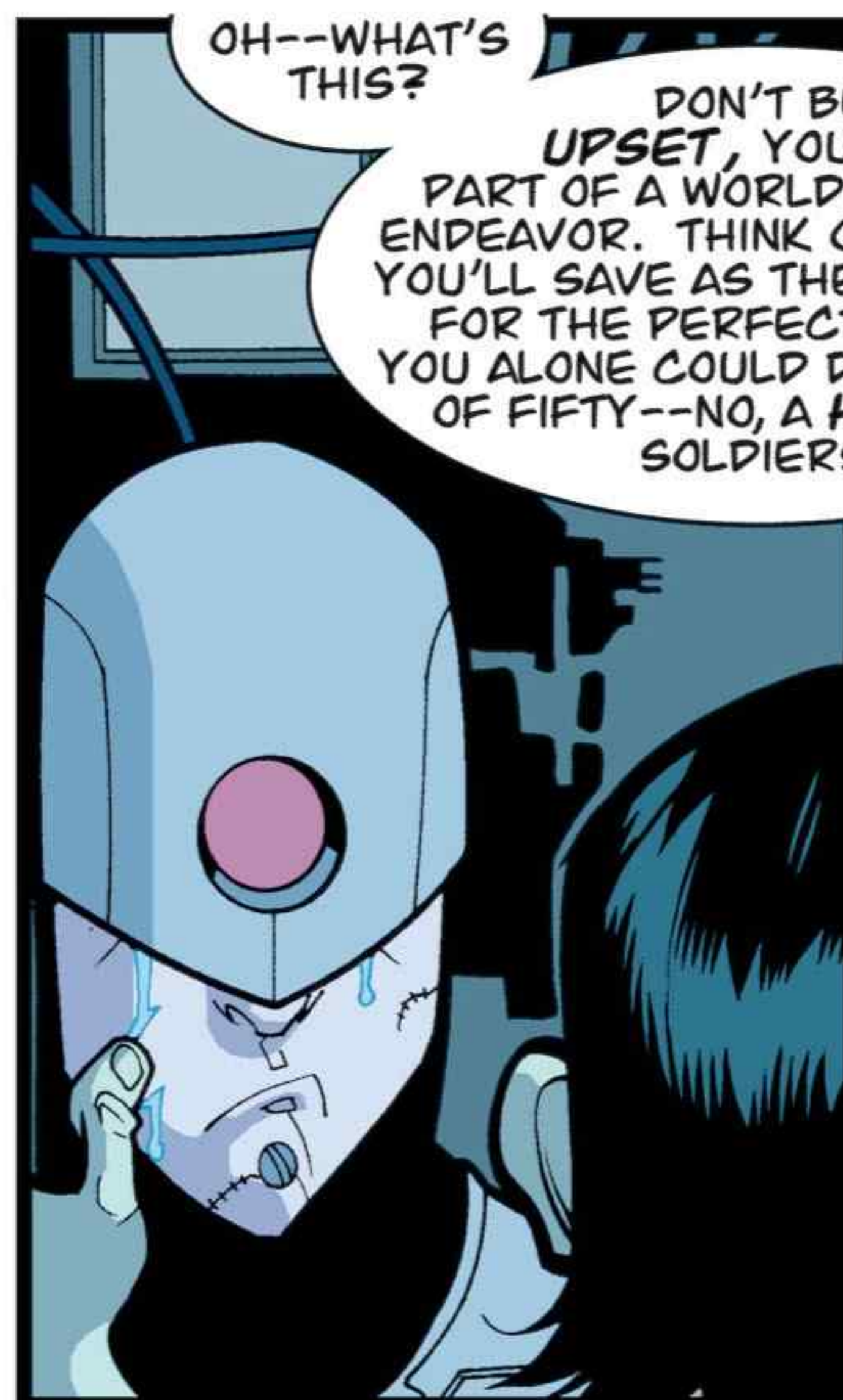
AH, RICK SHERIDAN--MY FIRST WORKING REANIMAN--THE ONE WHO STARTED IT ALL. MY PRIDE AND JOY.

YOU'RE LATE.



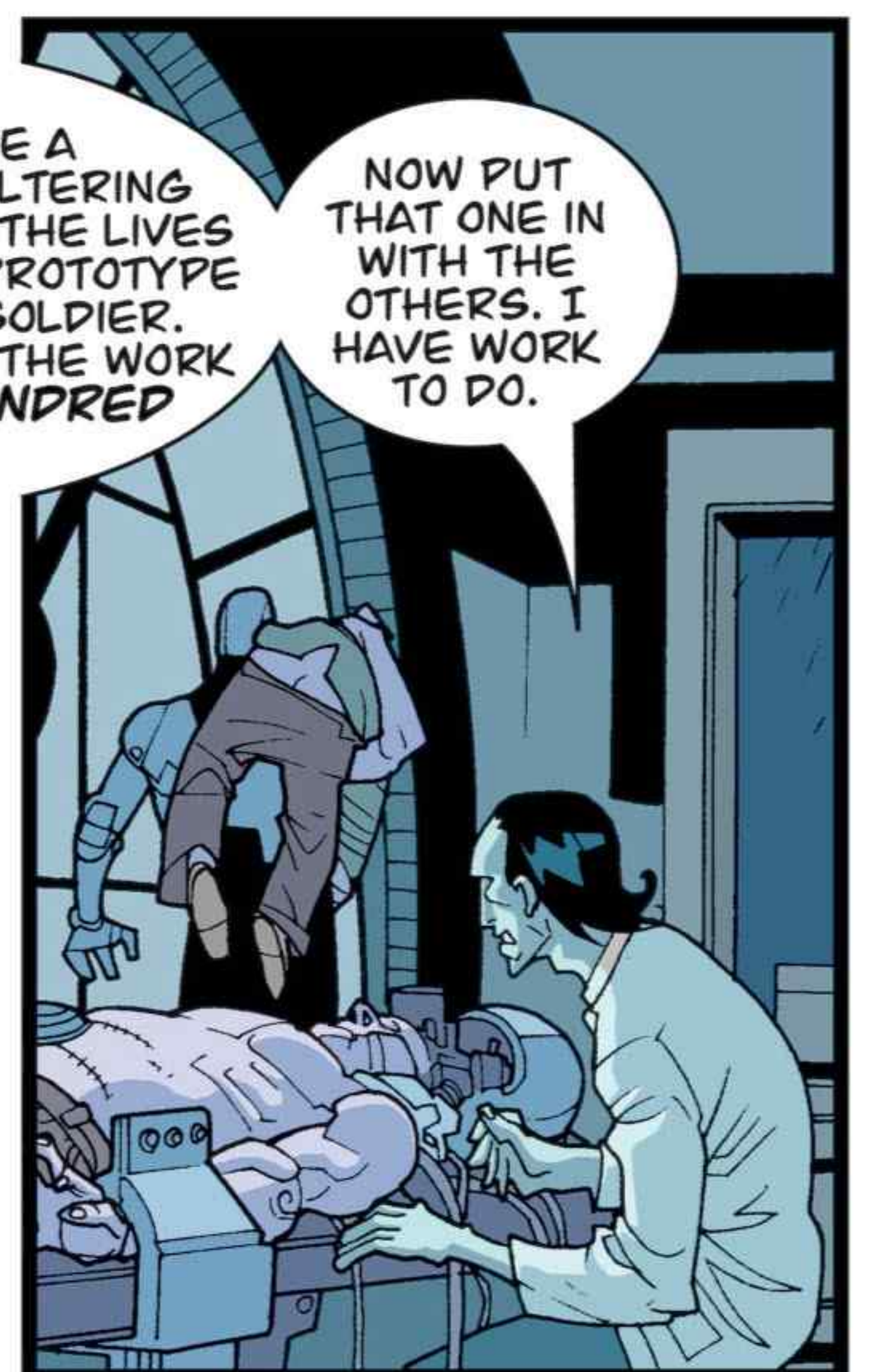
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE BACK HERE **BEFORE** THE SUN CAME UP. I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO BE SPOTTED. I TRUST YOU USED THE **SEWER** ENTRANCE.

OF COURSE YOU DID. THIS PLACE WOULD BE **CRAWLING** WITH CAMPUS POLICE IF YOU HADN'T.

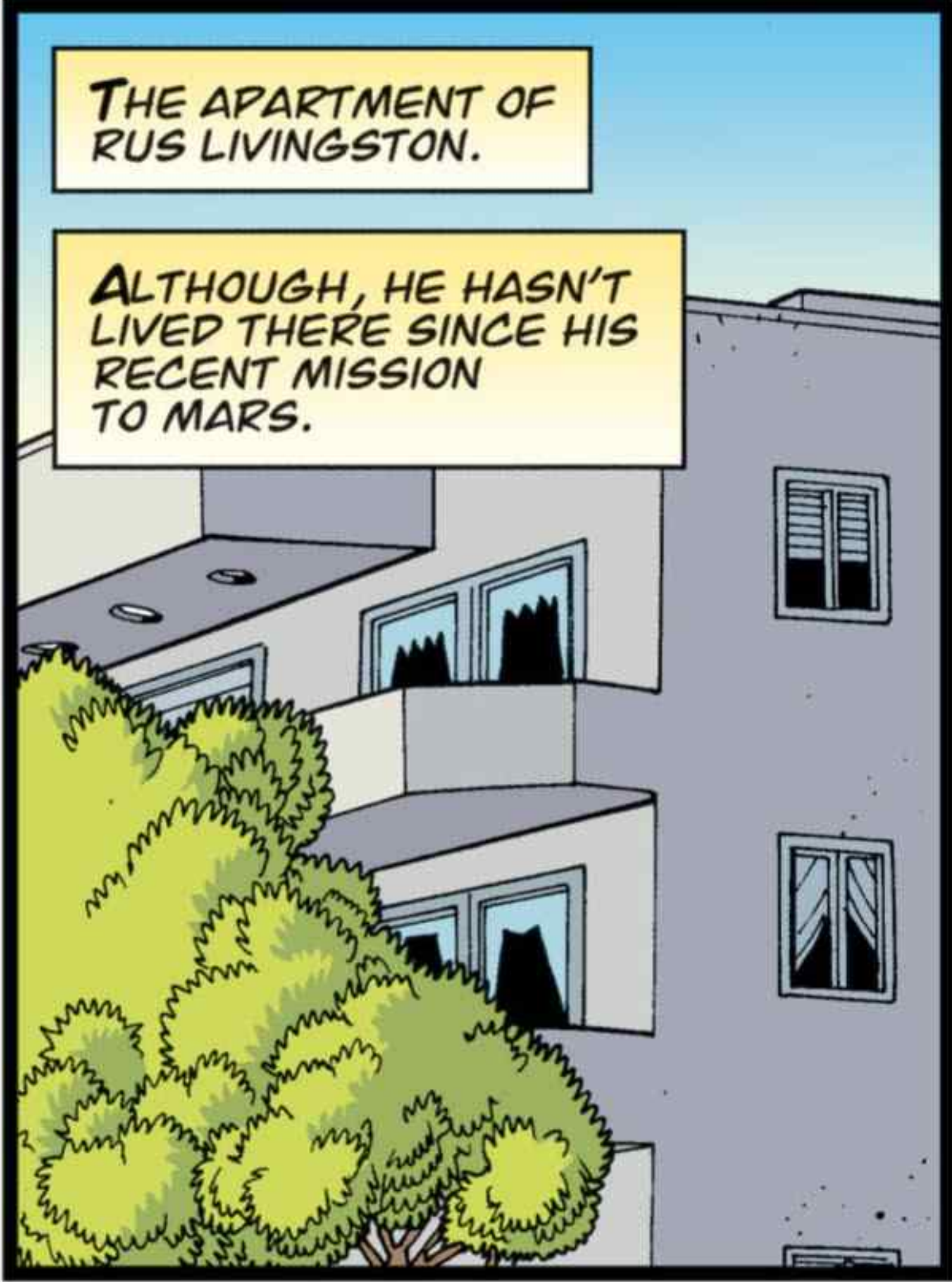


OH--WHAT'S THIS?

DON'T BE **UPSET**, YOU'RE A PART OF A WORLD-ALTERING ENDEAVOR. THINK OF THE LIVES YOU'LL SAVE AS THE PROTOTYPE FOR THE PERFECT SOLDIER. YOU ALONE COULD DO THE WORK OF FIFTY--NO, A **HUNDRED** SOLDIERS.



NOW PUT THAT ONE IN WITH THE OTHERS. I HAVE WORK TO DO.



THE APARTMENT OF
RUS LIVINGSTON.

ALTHOUGH, HE HASN'T
LIVED THERE SINCE HIS
RECENT MISSION
TO MARS.

RUS LIVINGSTON. I
WONDER WHAT KIND
OF PERSON YOU WERE.
I HOPE YOU'RE DOING
OKAY BACK ON MY
HOME WORLD.

WHAT HAVE
I DONE? I SHOULD
HAVE NEVER LEFT YOU
THERE--SWITCHING
PLACES WITH YOU. I
HAVE GOTTEN YOU
FIRED FROM NASA AND
NOW THEY TELL ME
YOU ARE TO BE
EVICTED.

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT THAT
MEANS.



I HATED MY HOME WORLD--
MARS. MYSELF AND THE
OTHER REBELS HATED THE
ENSLAVEMENT OF THE
SEQUIPS. THEY TALKED
ME INTO THIS... COMING
HERE. I JUST DON'T
KNOW IF IT WAS THE
BEST IDEA.

SURE, THE
SEQUIPS ARE
PROBABLY FREE NOW--
PROBABLY OVERTHROWING
OUR CORRUPT MONARCH
ONE... BUT I AM
HERE.

ALONE.

WITH
NOTHING
TO DO AND
NO ONE TO
TALK TO.



WE NOW RETURN TO
OUR RETROSPECTIVE
LOOK AT OUR NATION'S
SUPERHEROES. THEIR
GREATEST MOMENTS
AND GREATEST
SHAMES.

FROM BOLT
TO OMNI-MAN
WE SHOW YOU
THE BEST
AND THE
WORST.



NEXT UP IS
MARTIAN MAN.
HE FIRST APPEARED
ON THE SCENE IN
THE LATE
SEVENTIES.

USING HIS AMAZING
SHAPE-CHANGING
ABILITIES, HE HAD A
LONG, SUCCESSFUL
CAREER IN CRIME
FIGHTING BEFORE
HE JOINED THE
GUARDIANS OF
THE GLOBE.



SUPER-
HEROES?

